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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1963


Y E O V I L R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1963.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health	: P. Power Fox, M.B., Ch.B, D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	: Brynmor Morris, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	: J.T. Dallimore, M.A.P.H.I. W.G. Kelley, M.A.P.H.I. W.A. Barton, M.A.P.H.I. From 1st October, 1963.
Housing Inspector	: W.G. Parris
Housing Welfare Officer	: J.A. Martin



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TO THE
CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

---oooOooo---

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1963.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The total number of live births during the year was 466, as compared with 472 for the previous year. The Standardised Birth Rate was 17.3, as compared with 17.8 for the previous year - the rate for England and Wales was 18.2.

Deaths

The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year was 11, as compared with 5 for the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate (i.e. deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) was 23.6, as compared with 10.5 for the previous year - the rate for England and Wales was 20.7. The Perinatal Mortality Rate was 27.5, as compared with 15.2 the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 29.3. The Standardised Death Rate of the general population was 10.7, as compared with 8.9 the previous year. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.2. Of the total deaths of all ages, namely, 260, 119 occurred in people aged 75 years or over.

Infectious Diseases

The number of infectious diseases notified was 382, as compared with 151 for the previous year. The increase was mainly accounted for by the increase of Measles notified, 367 in 1963, as compared with 141 in 1962.

Immunization

Details of immunization, and in particular, children, are set out in the Report. With regard to immunization of children, a letter to all General Practitioners in Somerset was sent out by the County Medical Officer of Health, drawing attention to the fact that only about half the young children in the County received primary immunization against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus. Since of necessity some children born in 1963 cannot be immunized until 1964, it is not possible to ascertain accurately the percentage of children immunized in 1963. I have, however, totalled the number of children who were born in 1962 and who were immunized against the above diseases in either 1962 or 1963. The total number of births in 1962 was 472, the number immunized against Diphtheria was 365, against Whooping Cough 361, and against Tetanus 362. These figures give a percentage of children immunized against Diphtheria 76.4, against Whooping Cough 76.4 and against Tetanus 76.7

The relevant figures for Poliomyelitis were 299 immunized, the percentage being 63.4. Figures with regard to Smallpox are not available.

FLUORIDATION

Fluorine is a substance which occurs in all public water supplies in varying amounts, in Somerset the majority of water supplies are less than 0.1 part per million (p.p.m.), the maximum concentration being 0.5 p.p.m., whereas in parts of Lincolnshire the public water supply contains 4 p.p.m. The County Analyst of Somerset in her Annual Report for 1963, reports as follows:

"A second survey was carried out on the natural fluorine content of the drinking waters. Fluorine is present in all waters, even if it is only a minute trace in most, and the results made an interesting comparison with those of the 1951 survey. Clearly, most sources are remarkably constant in this respect, the results being identical, in some cases, with those of 12 years ago, or showing very little difference indeed. The majority contain less than 0.1 part per million. In 1951, this proportion was 68.6 per cent of the 143 waters analysed. A further 13.5 per cent do at present contain between 0.1 and 0.2 part per million and only one sample, in the remaining 8.1 per cent was found to exceed 0.5 part per million fluorine. This information is necessary, should it ever be decided to implement the policy of increasing the natural amount to 1.0 part per million in order to protect children's teeth against dental decay."

The detailed figures for Yeovil Borough (include Sutton Bingham), Yeovil Rural area and Wincanton Rural area, are as follows:

					<u>1951</u>	<u>1963</u>
<u>YEOVIL BOROUGH</u>						
Springponds	....	....	....	....	0.05	0.04
Stockwood	....	...	....	....	0.06	0.05
Haydon Wood (Higher)	....	....	....	....	0.03	0.03
Evershot Tunnel	....	....	....	....	0.01	0.06
Haydon Wood (Lower)	....	...	...	...	0.07	D.
Cattistock No.2....		...	....	....	-	0.05
" No.3	...	....	....	....	0.04	0.07
" No.4	....	...	...	...	-	0.04
Preston Borehole	....	...	....	....	0.67	D.
<u>YEOVIL RURAL</u>						
Hazelbury	....	....	....	....	0.21	D.
North Perrott	....	....	....	....	0.18	D.
East Chinnock	....	....	....	....	0.21	D.
East Coker	....	....	....	...	0.17	0.08
Montacute	....	....	....	....	0.28	D.
Watercombe Creamery	....	...	....	....	0.70	D.
South Petherton	....	....	....	....	0.31	D.
Norton and Chiselborough		....	....	....	0.22	D.
Odcombe	....	....	....	....	0.34	D.
Stoke-sub-Hamdon	....	....	....	....	0.24	D.
Marston and Rimpton	....	....	....	....	0.72	D.
Tintinhull	....	....	....	....	0.36	D.
Martock	....	....	....	....	0.29	D.
Martock (Hele Source)	....	....	....	....	0.28	D.
Mudford	....	....	....	...	0.37	D.
Sutton Bingham	....	....	....	...	-	0.08

WINCANTON RURAL

Charlton Musgrove	....	....	....	-	0.08
Penselwood	....	....	....	0.10	0.10
Pitcombe	....	....	....	0.16	0.21
Castle Cary	....	....	....	0.19	0.27
Bruton	....	....	....	0.03	0.05
South Brewham	....	....	....	0.06	D.
Templecombe - Henstridge	....	....	....	0.19	0.18
Milborne Port	....	....	....	0.13	0.12
Wincanton Old Supply	....	....	....	-	0.08

Abbreviation: D = Discontinued.

It is recognized by the leading Medical and Dental authorities in the country, viz, Dental and Medical Standing Advisory Committee for England and Wales and also for Scotland, the Central Health Services Council, the Ministry of Health, the British Medical Association, and the Society of Medical Officers of Health, that fluoridation of public water supplies where the fluorine content is substantially less than 1 p.p.m. would reduce the incidence of dental caries considerably and that no other method has been shown to be as effective. Fluoridation is the correction of a deficiency of fluorine in public water supplies by the addition of Sodium Fluoride, so that there is 0.9 to 1.0 p.p.m. of fluorine and in this respect fluoridation is somewhat analogous to the addition of vitamins to margarine and of chalk and iron to white bread.

It has been conclusively shown by numerous studies and investigations that where the fluorine content of water supplies is approximately 1 p.p.m. that the incidence of disease of teeth in children is considerably reduced, 50% to 60% in areas where the fluorine content is 1 - 1.5 p.p.m. as compared with children living in areas where the fluorine content of the water supplies is low. There is also strong evidence that this beneficial effect is continued on in adult life. There is a reduction of 25% of dental decay in adults aged 31 - 35 years in a high natural fluoride area in this country and 60% reduction up to the age of 44 years of age in a high natural fluoride area in the U.S.A., as compared with adults living in areas in which water contains only a small amount of fluorine.

There is also strong evidence that both in children and adults living in areas where the water supply does contain 1 p.p.m. that the severity of caries or decay is less than in areas where the water supply is deficient in fluorine.

In the Somerset County Council Annual Report of the School Health Service, the Principal School Dental Officer gives details of dental surveys of children aged 5 years and 12 years for the years 1948, 1953, 1958 and 1963, as follows:

Year	No. of children examined (a)	No. showing no D.M.F. teeth (b)	No. of D.M.F. teeth found (c)	% showing no D.M.F. teeth (d)	Average No. D.M.F. per child examined (e)
<u>5 yr. age group</u>					
Survey '48	2,500	544	10,666	21.8	4.3
Survey '53	2,500	284	14,069	11.4	5.63
Survey '58	2,500	307	15,419	12.3	6.17
Survey '63	2,500	480	13,898	19.20	5.56
<u>12 yr. age group</u>					
Survey '48	2,500	558	6,740	22.3	2.7
Survey '53	2,500	234	10,848	9.4	4.34
Survey '58	2,500	69	13,924	2.7	5.57
Survey '63	2,500	104	13,403	4.16	5.36

D.M.F. = decayed, missing (extracted) or filled

It will be noted that these figures show a deterioration of children's teeth in the survey of 1963 as compared with that of 1948, which is more marked in the 12 year old group of children, presumably because their teeth have been longer exposed to the effects of faulty diet, or lack of fluorine in water. A possible inference that might be drawn from the results of these four surveys is that there has been a decline in the Dental Services available, but in fact there has been an increase in the number of dentists in the County, as the following table shows:

Dentists in Somerset

		<u>1948</u>	<u>1963</u>
Somerset County Council Dentists	....	13	17
Dentists in general practice	....	91	119
		<hr/>	
Total	....	104	136
		<hr/>	

This increase of 32 dentists, approximately 30% of the 1948 figures, has been accompanied by a continued campaign amongst school children, with regard to Dental Hygiene and care of the teeth. Despite this increase in the Dental Services and prolonged attempts to improve the condition of children's teeth by education of the parents and children, only partial success has been achieved. It is recognized that caries of the teeth is associated with a diet that contains sweet sugary foods and drinks, such as biscuits, chocolates, sweets, etc. During World War II, wartime scarcities, by limiting the amount of sugar consumed, brought about a considerable reduction in the incidence of dental caries, and at the same time produced a much higher percentage of children whose teeth were caries free. It was found in North Shields, a low fluoride area, that the wartime diet had raised the percentage of 12 year old children, free from caries, from 4.8 in 1943 to 26.4 in 1949. At the same time, however, the percentage of caries free children of the same age (12 years) in South Shields, with 1.4 p.p.m. of fluoride in the water, was raised from 25.8 in 1943 to 50.6 in 1949. It would seem a valid conclusion that the public, and in particular children, will only accept a diet that does not damage their teeth, when circumstances over which they have no control dictates that they must accept this diet, and that the value of this diet is enhanced if the water they drink contains a minimum of fluoride of 1 p.p.m.

Because of this increasing incidence of dental caries, even though there is an increase in the number of practicing dentists and a continuous campaign to education parents and children with regard to dental health, alternative methods of combating dental caries have been reviewed, and fluoridation so far has been proved to be the most effective. In May 1963, as a result of a circular from the Ministry of Health, dated December, 1962, the Clerk of the Somerset County Council wrote to all the Local Authorities in the County, stating that they were considering the fluoridation of public water supplies, and requesting the Local Authorities views on this subject. The number of Local Authorities in the County of Somerset is 36, of whom 23 (63.8%) were in favour of fluoridation, and 13 (36.2%) were opposed to fluoridation, the respective populations represented being 323,396 (62.2%) in favour, 195,794 (37.8%) against fluoridation. The County Council also appointed a Working Party to report on fluoridation, which advised in favour of fluoridation, and this opinion was endorsed by the Health Committee. Despite the majority of people in the County, as represented by their Local Authorities, and despite the County Council's own Committee, which advised in favour of fluoridation, the County Council voted against fluoridation of public water supplies, the voting being 39 against, 34 in favour of fluoridation and 9 abstentions.

Taking into consideration the weight of expert medical and dental opinion in favour of fluoridation and that approximately 2/3 of the population of the County, as represented by the Local Authority Councils, were in favour of fluoridation, the decision of the County Council appears inexplicable. The bulk of opposition to fluoridation appears to emanate from the National Pure Water Association, which so far as I know, is a relatively small body, but an extremely able and active organisation. To ascertain what proportion of the population of England Wales were members of the National Pure Water Association, I wrote to the Secretary of the Association and was informed that (1) it was not part of the official policy to divulge the membership figures and (2) it was not possible to find out the membership since many of the Branches were completely autonomous. Recently the Association issued a pamphlet stating that the higher the concentration of fluorine in the water supply, the higher will be the proportion of mongol births. This statement has been refuted categorically by the Ministry of Health, who state that following an investigation in this country, in which carefully matched pairs of high and low fluoride towns were selected, the number of mongols found corresponded closely with the known incidence of the condition. There is no basis whatever for any suggestion that fluoridation might cause even one mother to give birth to a mongol child.

To sum up:

- (1) There is ample evidence to show the need for improved preventive treatment of disease of the teeth.
- (2) That fluoridation is the best practicable means available at present.
- (3) That the improvement achieved in children extends into middle age.
- (4) There are no medical contra-indications to fluoridation.
- (5) That the opposition to fluoridation is mainly due to ignorance, apathy and groundless prejudice.
- (6) Relevant to the above, an appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice McGregor that the Lower Hutt population (New Zealand) were entitled in law to add fluoride to water, was considered by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, who upheld the decision of Mr. Justice McGregor. Lord Upjohn, member of the Judicial Committee, quoted from the judgement of Mr. Justice McGregor, when he said:- "I was satisfied on the evidence that (1) there is a high incidence of dental caries in New Zealand generally. (2) there was almost a complete absence or at least a high deficiency in the fluoride content of the natural artesian well water supply of Lower Hutt; (3) that the absorption of fluoride has a substantial effect in reducing the incidence of dental caries, especially in young children; (4) there are no deleterious or toxic effects on the human body from the absorption of fluoride, more emphatically in the minute proportion of one part per million; (5) any surplus fluoride taken into the body is excreted without harmful results; and (6) tablets or other vehicles for the taking of fluoride are unsatisfactory in that the required regularity with children would not be achieved, and natural water is the only satisfactory vehicle."

Also relevant to the above is that the Eire Supreme Court in Dublin on Friday, 3rd July, 1964, declared the Health (Fluoridation of Water Supplies) Act, 1960, to be constitutional and the appeal of Mrs. Gladys Ryan, of Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin, was dismissed with costs against her. According to a report in the Irish Times of Saturday, 4th July, 1964, the costs of the action are believed to be in the region of £60,000. In the course of giving judgement, the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Cearbhall O Dalaigh, said that the question of dental caries had become a national problem in Eire. It could result not only in damage to the teeth themselves, but through them might be injurious to general health. The State was organized for the Common

welfare of its citizens and had a duty of protecting the citizens from danger to health in a manner not incompatible or inconsistent with the rights of those citizens as human persons. The Court did not accept that the fluoridation of water was, or could be, described as the mass medication or mass administration of "drugs" through water. It was misuse of words to refer to the process in such terms.

I am confident that within the next decade fluoridation will be much more widely used and will be recognized as an extremely important measure in preventive medicine.

I again have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council, from the Public Health Committee and from members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1963

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	53,495
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£667,296
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in the year ending 31.3.64	...	...	...	...	...	£2,679. 6. 9.
No. of inhabited houses (31.3.64)	...	...	...	...	...	7,877
Population	...	...	...	...	...	26,930

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Yeovil Rural District, comprising an area of 53,495 acres, is situated in the South-East area of the County of Somerset and is composed of 31 rural parishes.

The area in general is not very much above sea level: the greatest point of elevation being Ham Hill, 426 feet above sea level.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply during the year has been satisfactory, the impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham being completed in early December, 1955. The capacity of the reservoir is 575 million gallons, with an estimated net yield of 2.4 million gallons per day. Detailed information regarding bacteriological and chemical analyses are included in the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

METEOROLOGY

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog or mist.

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the year 1963, as recorded at the Sutton Bingham Reservoir was 28.21.

OCCUPATION

The main industry of the district is agriculture, which is chiefly of a dairying and grazing nature. In addition, the manufacture of gloves is an important industry, glove factories being located at Martock, Stoke-sub-Hamdon and Tintinhull, in addition to the glove making which is carried out in the homes. A considerable proportion of people resident in the Yeovil Rural District are employed in the Yeovil Borough.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services are mainly situated in the Yeovil Borough. The South Petherton Hospital, which deals with infectious diseases, is situated in the Rural District. The Hospital Services are administered by the South Somerset Hospitals Management Committee, under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board.

Situated in the Borough are:-

- (1) The Yeovil & District Hospital - an acute general hospital.
- (2) Summerlands Hospital - mainly used as a geriatric hospital.
- (3) Yeovil Maternity Hospital(Crossways) - 14 beds.
- (4) Balidon Maternity Hospital - a General Practitioners Unit - 17 beds.

The Yeovil General Hospital consists of 82 beds, of which 6 beds are private. The number of patients discharged throughout the year was 2,725 (2,620 in 1962), the average length of stay being 10 to 21 days. In addition, 6,069 new patients attended the Specialist and Out-patient clinics, making a total number of attendances of 24,258.

In addition, there were 1,875 attendances at the Orthoptic Department, and 26,435 units of work were carried out in the Radiological Department. Members of the Council are already aware of the difficulties due to the lack of beds and inadequate facilities of the present hospital, but steady, if slow, progress is being made in the building of a new hospital of approximately 300 beds.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are treated at South Petherton Hospital (50 beds). In general, only the Cubicle Block is required (10 beds), and the other 40 beds are utilized for post-operative cases, so relieving the strain on Yeovil Hospital and for General Practitioner patients and semi-chronic sick.

TUBERCULOSIS

A chest clinic is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at Yeovil Hospital. Patients requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to the Cheddon Road Hospital, Taunton.

CHRONIC SICK

Summerlands Hospital (100 beds), which is situated in the Borough, is the largest hospital in the area used for this purpose. This hospital was originally a Poor Law Institute built in 1837, and the lay-out etc., does not conform with the accepted standards of today. Considerable improvements have already been carried out, and further improvements are being planned.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A Laboratory is located at Yeovil Hospital, which deals with a large proportion of the pathological work connected with the hospital and the surrounding area. An emergency service is maintained, which deals primarily with the Yeovil Hospital blood bank. The larger Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital undertakes work beyond the scope of Yeovil Hospital. Also, a Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, blood, sputum and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analyses for the examination of milk, food, water supplies and sewage effluent are also carried out.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council.

The new ambulance station, which was opened in April, 1963, has ample garage accommodation for the ambulances, with under floor heating, a heated blanket store adjacent to the vehicles, a well equipped workshop for maintenance and repairs of a minor nature, a sluice for bottles and bed pans and a dressing destructor.

The large airy control overlooks the Station yard, and from here a constant supply of messages to and from the ambulances on the road is kept up, by the use of short wave radio.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following information.

Houses, etc. completed during the year ended 31.12.63.:-

(a)	by Y.R.D.C.	26
(b)	by Other Authorities	Nil.
(c)	by Private Enterprise	297
	plus net gain conversions ..	8

Houses, etc. erected post-war:-

(a)	by Y.R.D.C.	919
	plus temp. 'prefabs'	40
(b)	by Other Authorities	417
(c)	by Private Enterprise	1,519

Council Houses sold post-war 24

Houses, etc., erected by Local Authority and still owned by them 1,879
(plus 25 temporary 'prefabs'.)

No. of applicants on the waiting list as at 31.12.63. 546

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General show the number of births and deaths after correction has been made for transfers to the normal place of residence of the individuals concerned. From these figures can be calculated the "crude" birth and death rates. As, however, the highest mortality occurs at the two extremes of life, and industrial areas in general have a bigger proportion of people living in the middle age periods of life, some correction must be made for the irregularities of distribution as regards age and sex, as otherwise the death rate will afford no accurate means of comparing the healthiness of one district with another. This comparability factor is furnished by the Registrar General, and applied to the "crude" birth or death rate, gives a standardised rate and enables comparison to be made with the rate for England and Wales, or with rates of other districts.

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	466
Live Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	17.3
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	12.7
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	472
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	11
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	23.6.
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	24.6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	10.5
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (First four weeks) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	...	...	17.1
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (First week) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	...	...	15.02
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths + deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	27.5
Percentage of illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	4.07
Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	-
Maternal Mortality Rate (including abortion) per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	-

BIRTHS

			<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
			<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
(a) <u>Live Births</u>				
Legitimate	...	233	214	447
Illegitimate	...	15	4	19
			<u>248</u>	<u>466</u>
			<u>218</u>	<u>472</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			17.3	17.8
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated pop.			16.4	18.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales			18.2	18.0

(b) Stillbirths

Legitimate	...	5	1	6	3
Illegitimate	...	- -	-	-	-
		<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births				12.7	6.3
Stillbirth Rate for England and Wales				17.2	18.1

DEATHS

			<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
			<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total Deaths	...	136	124	260
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 pop.			9.6	8.1
Standardised Death Rate per			10.7	8.9
1,000 pop..				
Death Rate for England and Wales			12.2	11.9

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes		Nil.

BIRTHS

The total number of births was 466, 248 males and 218 females. Of these, 19 were illegitimate, 15 males and 4 females. The table below shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

BIRTH RATES

1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
14.3	16.3	16.4	14.8	17.06	16.4	18.6	17.09	17.9	17.8	17.3

DEATHS

There was an increase in the total number of deaths, 260 in 1963, as compared with 216 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 10.7, as compared with 8.9 for the previous year. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.2.

The following table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 136 deaths 86 occurred amongst those 65 years and over, and 48 amongst those 75 years and over. Of the females, out of the total of 124 deaths, 97 were 65 years and over, 71 were 75 years and over.

AGES AT DEATH

Ages at death in years			Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	...		6	5	11
1	...		-	-	-
5	...		1	1	2
15	...		4	1	5
25	...		5	-	5
35	...		2	4	6
45	...		5	8	13
55	...		27	8	35
65	...		38	26	64
75 and over	...		48	71	119
Total			136	124	260

					1963	1962
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	40	42
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages)	..	..	..	..	86	57
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)	..	..	..	..	1	1

The Crude Death Rate for the past ten years is as follows:-

1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
7.6	9.34	10.2	9.5	9.3	9.5	10.1	9.5	9.1	8.1	9.6

The following table shows the causes of death and the sex distribution.

1963

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	10
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	19	17
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	24	22
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	-
Other Heart Disease ...	18	21
Other circulatory disease ...	4	10
Influenza ...	3	1
Pneumonia ...	12	8
Bronchitis ...	10	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	-
Congenital malformations ...	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	4	1
All other accidents ...	3	4
Suicide ...	4	1
Total	136	124

CANCER

The number of deaths due to Cancer (all forms) was 40. The table as set out below shows the incidence of Cancer for previous years.

1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
30	35	31	40	39	46	62	52	45	42	40

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION:

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Yeovil Rural District	1.22	1.50	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.4	2.02	1.7	1.5	1.4
County of Somerset	1.84	2.06	2.045	1.89	2.054	2.018	2.12	2.157	2.22	2.17	2.17
England & Wales	1.99	2.035	2.056	2.1	2.1	2.12	2.13	2.15	2.16	2.17	2.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 11, as compared with 5 for the year 1962. The rate per 1,000 live births was 23.6, as compared with England and Wales - 22.3

The following table shows the number of deaths and the Infantile Mortality Rate as compared with previous years.

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
No. of deaths	7	9	9	9	5	9	12	10	5	5	11
Rate per 1,000 live births in Rural Dist.	21.08	25.2	23.07	25.2	12.7	23.6	25.6	22.7	10.7	10.5	23.6
Rate per 1,000 live births in England & Wales	26.5	25.5	24.9	23.8	23.1	22.5	22.6	21.9	21.4	20.7	22.3

CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE

	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	Under 1 month	Under 1 year	Total
Prematurity	2	1	1	-	4
Atelc basis	-	2	-	-	2
Dysmaturity	-	1	-	-	1
Bronchial Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1
Congenital Heart	-	-	-	1	1
Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases during the year, and also the figures for the previous year

						Cases Notified	
						1963	1962
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	4	6
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	367	141
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	7	2
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	4	-
Erysipelas	.	..	..	..	..	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Total						382	151

IMMUNIZATION

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

The following table shows the number of children who completed a full course of primary immunization during the year 1963.

Children born in the years:-

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1954 - 58</u>	<u>1949 - 53</u>	<u>Total</u>
Diphtheria	173	168	16	2	1	31	3	394
Whooping Cough	173	167	15	2	1	2	1	361

In addition, 443 children in the same age groups received re-inforcement or booster doses against Diphtheria.

Smallpox

Age groups:-

<u>0 - 3</u> <u>mths.</u>	<u>4 - 6</u> <u>mths.</u>	<u>7 - 9</u> <u>mths.</u>	<u>10 - 12</u> <u>mths.</u>	<u>1 year</u>	<u>2 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 14</u> <u>years</u>	<u>15 years</u> <u>or over</u>
P	P	P	P	P R	P R	P R	P R
7	25	13	18	24 -	1 1	38 94	10 39

Poliomyelitis

No. of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections or 3 doses of Oral Vaccine) during the year 1963.

<u>Children born</u> <u>1963</u>		<u>Children born</u> <u>1962</u>		<u>Children born</u> <u>1943-61</u>		<u>Young</u> <u>Persons</u> <u>born</u> <u>1933-42</u>		<u>Persons</u> <u>under 40</u> <u>yrs. of</u> <u>age, +</u> <u>priority</u> <u>groups</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>Salk</u>	<u>Oral</u>	<u>Salk</u>	<u>Oral</u>	<u>Salk</u>	<u>Oral</u>	<u>Salk</u>	<u>Oral</u>	<u>Salk</u>	<u>Oral</u>	<u>Salk</u>	<u>Oral</u>
1	43	3	246	1	105	1	25	1	28	7	447
Grand Total = 454											

Reinforcement Doses

<u>No. of persons</u> <u>(all groups)</u> <u>who rec'd a 3rd</u> <u>Salk inj. or</u> <u>4th inj. of</u> <u>quadruple</u> <u>vaccine.</u>	<u>No. of children</u> <u>of 5 years, but</u> <u>under 12 years,</u> <u>who rec'd a 4th</u> <u>Salk inj. or 5th</u> <u>inj. of quadruple</u> <u>vaccine.</u>	<u>No. of persons</u> <u>(all groups)</u> <u>who rec'd a</u> <u>reinforcing</u> <u>of Oral vaccine</u> <u>following 2</u> <u>Salk inj.</u>	<u>No. of children</u> <u>of 5 yrs. but</u> <u>under 12 yrs. who</u> <u>rec'd a dose of</u> <u>Oral vaccine</u> <u>after 3 Salk inj.</u> <u>or 3 Oral doses</u> <u>or 2 Salk inj.</u> <u>plus 2 Oral doses</u>
36	5	75	301

Tetanus

No. of children who received a full course of primary immunization in the year 1963.

Children born in the years:-							
1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1954-58	1949-53	Total
173	168	16	3	1	50	52	463

Reinforcement Doses

Children born in the years:-						
1962	1961	1960	1959	1954 - 58	1949 - 53	Total
32	74	6	3	56	11	182

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 5, Non-pulmonary 1. There was one death recorded as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
No. of cases notified Pulmonary ...	5	6	4	7	7	12	5	8	9	15
No. of cases notified Non-pulmonary	1	3	2	1	2	4	2	5	6	5
No. of deaths Pulmonary	1	1	-	1	2	-	1	2	2	-
No. of deaths Non-pulmonary	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Death Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	.03	.03	-	.03	.08	-	0.04	0.08	0.08	-

AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total ...	2	3	-	1	1	-	-	-

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

The establishment and maintenance of the Infant Welfare Clinics are a direct responsibility of the Somerset County Council, and during recent years the number of such clinics in the Yeovil Rural District has been increased to 7. At each clinic, other than the Houndstone Camp Clinic, a doctor engaged by the Somerset County Council attends regularly, also a District Nurse.

Facilities are available for the purchase of Infant Welfare Foods, including National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, etc., and certain proprietary dried milk preparations, which are sold at the clinics at special prices.

Apart from other considerations, the clinics have an important educational value.

Associated with each clinic is a voluntary Committee, the value of whose services it would be difficult to over emphasize.

The following table sets out the attendances, etc., at the various clinics.

	MARTOCK	STOKE-SUB-HAMDON	SOUTH PETHER-TON	WEST COKER	HOUND-STONE	WRAX-HILL RD.	ILCHES-TER	TOTAL
No. of children who attended for the 1st time (under 1 year of age	36	26	42	23	33	16	74	250
No. of children who attended during the year	110	60	109	63	52	76	182	652
Total attendances of children during the year	397	428	423	236	165	270	632	2,551
Average attendance of children per session	36	19	17	21	14	22	27	156
Total No. of children examined by Medical Officer	48	26	62	41	-	34	106	317
No. of sessions with Medical Officer	11	9	12	11	-	12	23	78
Total No. of sessions	11	22	24	11	12	12	23	115

BIRTHS

Live Births ..	Legitimate 447	Illegitimate 19	Total 466
Stillbirths ..	" 6	" -	" 6
Infant Deaths	Legitimate 9	Illegitimate 2	Total 11

BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

This clinic was commenced in 1947, and is held at the Preston Road Clinic, Yeovil. Since its inception, 7,837 individual pregnant women have been examined, 866 examinations being carried out in 1963. The area from which the patients are drawn, is, as would be expected, mainly the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District. Patients are referred by the private practitioner or Midwife, without previous appointment. A card showing the patient's blood group and whether she is Rhesus Positive or Rhesus Negative, is forwarded to her direct, together with a covering letter emphasizing the importance of her retaining the card in case she ever requires a blood transfusion for any purpose. A report giving further information, including percentage of haemoglobin and W.R. test, is forwarded to the private doctor, and a copy of this report is also forwarded to the Midwife or Matron of the maternity unit, depending on where the patient is having her confinement. Previously, similar information was forwarded to Yeovil Hospital in case the patient was admitted there for any reason and required a blood transfusion, but a copy is now forwarded direct by the Laboratory doing the tests.

A record of all blood tests is also kept at the Public Health Department. In the case of second or subsequent pregnancies of Rhesus Negative women, as the test is normally carried out early in pregnancy, a further test is carried out six to eight weeks before the expected date of confinement, to exclude antibodies. If antibodies are found to be present, and if in sufficient quantities to threaten the welfare of the baby when born, arrangements are made for the baby to be born either at Bristol or Taunton, so that the blood transfusion of the baby can be carried out if necessary. The number of babies whose life has been saved by this procedure now runs into double figures, and is a source of considerable gratification.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service continues to render excellent assistance and the following table indicates the scope of its activities.

No. of cases who received help in 1963

<u>Type of Case</u>					<u>Yeovil Rural District</u>
Maternity	...	...	...	...	23
Old Age and Infirmary		...	...		99
Chronic Illness	...	...	...		7
Emergency Illness	...	...	...		4
Mental Health	...	...	...		3
Families of children	...	...	...		7
Post Operation	...	...	...		5
Tuberculosis	...	....	...		2
Accidents	...	...	...		1
					<hr/>
					151
					<hr/>

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the Yeovil Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report of the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department for 1963.

During the year the following inspections were made:-

Drainage.....	141
Factories.....	10
Sewerage.....	18
<u>Food Premises</u>	
Bakers and Bakeries.....	15
Butchers.....	1
Cafes and Restaurants.....	6
Canteens and Mobile Canteens.....	1
Fish and Chip Shops.....	-
Greengrocers.....	1
Grocers.....	13
Licensed premises and Off Licences.....	-
Sweet Confectionery.....	-
Wet Fish shop.....	-
Food Sampling (Ice Cream).....	1
Housing General.....	85
Housing Grants.....	626
Meat Inspection and other foods.....	328
Caravans.....	88
Nuisances.....	88
Offensive trades.....	1
Refuse collection and disposal.....	107
Rodent Control.....	14
Slaughterhouses.....	15
Water Supplies.....	47
Petroleum Acts.....	50
Fire Escapes.....	-
Rent Act.....	-
Diseases of Animals Acts.....	4
Infestation.....	1
Miscellaneous.....	32

HOUSING

Mr. J.T. Dallimore is the Officer concerned with the administration of this aspect of the work of the Department. The number of applications received and approved during the year was as follows:-

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Conversions

No. of dwellings concerned in APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - 3
No. of dwellings in APPLICATIONS APPROVED a) owner occupied - 2
b) other - 1

Amount of grant which the Council have decided to pay on applications approved - £1,200

Improvements

No. of dwellings concerned in APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - 17
No. of dwellings in APPLICATIONS APPROVED a) owner occupied - 9
b) other - 6

Amount of grant which the Council have decided to pay on applications approved - £5,010

STANDARD GRANTS

No of dwellings concerned in APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - 47
No of dwellings in APPLICATIONS APPROVED a) owner occupied - 28
b) other - 19

Grants paid after completion of improvements:-

No. of dwellings concerned - 25

Amount paid £2,969. 18. 8.

No. of amenities provided:- Fixed baths or showers - 20
wash-hand basins - 20
hot water supplies - 27
water-closets - 21
food storage facilities - 21

UNFIT HOUSES

11 houses were inspected and found not to be, in all respects, reasonably suitable for habitation. Closing Orders were made in each case.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

Regular slaughtering of animals for human consumption took place at three of the licensed slaughterhouses. The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected was 41,186 (1962, 46,497). Again it is worthy of note that there was no evidence of tuberculosis among the 4,209 prime cattle killed, and that, of the 12,360 dairy cows slaughtered it was only found necessary to totally condemn one carcass, and to partly condemn five. The Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is informed of all cases of this disease discovered at the slaughterhouses. From 1st October an inspector has been present in the Martock Slaughterhouse at all times when slaughtering is carried on. Mr. W.G. Kelley is assisted by Mr. W.A. Barton and Mr. J.T. Dallimore, and occasionally by myself.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>
No. of single caravans licensed	34	
No. of site licences issued in respect of more than one caravan.	13 (127 Vans)	2 (15 Vans)

No sites were closed during the year.

Several complaints of unlicensed caravans, occupied by gypsies were dealt with during the year. Most of these people new get a living out of buying and selling scrap and after they move on the sites, surrounding hedges are littered with scrap metal. On two occasions it was found necessary to make special collections from these sites. Public Health Inspectors do not derive any satisfaction from moving these families from one country lane to another. In my view farmers should be encouraged to provide sites equipped with water and toilet facilities where they can pull in for short periods, and for which an economic charge could be made.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

It was very gratifying to be permitted to start controlled tipping during the year and I am glad to report that this has been very successful. Welfare facilities were provided at a new building erected on the tip, and the men now have hot and cold water, a water-closet and heating facilities available. The decision to make charges for the disposal of trade refuse resulted in £748 being recovered by the end of the year.

There was little demand for special collections of discarded house-hold furniture.

Motor car bodies - Two were brought to the tip and a charge of £5 was made in each case.

Laybys on Trunk Roads and Ham Hill - Twice weekly collections of litter from these sites were made during the summer months, and weekly during the rest of the year. In addition collections from adjoining ditches and fields were made. The foul condition of laybys has recently received a lot of publicity. Misuse of some of these sites in your district were discovered during the year and until there are adequate public or privately owned conveniences available, this practice will continue.

SALVAGE

SALE OF WASTE PAPER	13 tons 2 cwts 1 qr	£101. 3. 3.
SALE OF METALS		<u>17. 18. 7.</u>
		<u>£119. 1. 10.</u>

INSPECTION OF CAFES, HOTELS AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Mr. Barton, who commenced duties in October, was able to make a thorough inspection of 15 premises, as a result of which there has been improvement in the handling and storage of food thereon.

UN SOUND FOOD

There were far more complaints received of contaminated food, and of food containing foreign matter than in previous years. These were all investigated and in future it is my intention to report these cases to the Public Health Committee with a view to proceedings being taken against the manufacturers or shop keepers concerned.

RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Council's Rodent Operators during the year.

	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>		Agricul- tural	All other including business & industrial	TOTAL
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses			
Number of inspections during the year as a result of :-					
(a) Notification	13	120	Nil	6	146
(b) Survey under the Act	79	Nil	Nil	Nil	79
Number of properties found to be infested					
(a) Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Minor	12	70	Nil	6	86
Number infested properties treated by the Council's Operators	12	70	Nil	6	86

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

B Morris

B. MORRIS
Senior Public Health Inspector.

SECTION 'C'

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1) WATER SUPPLIES.

Operation of the treatment works and pumping station at the Sutton Bingham Reservoir continued without incident, providing a supply for substantially the whole of the population of the Rural District and a bulk supply to the Yeovil Corporation.

Number of samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	....	101
Number of samples reported satisfactory	....	97
Number of samples reported unsatisfactory	....	4
Number of samples taken for Chemical Examination	....	12
Number of samples reported satisfactory	....	12
Number of samples reported unsatisfactory	....	NIL
Rainfall recorded during year at Sutton Bingham Reservoir Rainfall Station	....	1962 = 28.64
	....	1963 = 31.85

2) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of refuse is carried out:-

Weekly in five parishes, part weekly/part fortnightly in five parishes, fortnightly in nineteen parishes and in the remaining parish it is collected part fortnightly and part monthly. Isolated farmhouses and other premises where access is difficult are collected monthly.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Inspections for nuisances	....	88
Informal Notices served and complied with	....	1
Drainage tests and inspections	....	141
Houses disinfected	....	NIL
Inspections of Water Supplies	....	101
Slaughterhouse Inspections	....	15

Shops and Offices - It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

Clean Air Act - It was not found necessary to take any action.

SECTION 'D'

HOUSING AND HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1) NEW HOUSES

Houses erected during the year.

Local Authority - for Slum Clearance	4
for other purposes	22

Houses in course of erection.

for Slum Clearance	5
for other purposes	29

2) PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Houses erected during the year	297
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Houses in course of erection	168
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Houses gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	8
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Houses lost from conversion of two or more houses to one	4
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3) HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	334
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(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	711
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2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con.Reggs, 1925 and 1932.	78
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(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	182
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(c) Number of houses in which no action necessary	Nil
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3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human occupation.	11
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4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human occupation	67
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4) HOUSING ACTION

(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	67
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(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	Nil
--	-----

5)	<u>ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR</u>	
	(Proceedings under Sections 9, 16, 17, 18 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1957).	
1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
2)	Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
6)	<u>PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS</u>	
1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	1
2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority	Nil
7)	<u>PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 17 and 42 OF THE HOUSING ACTS, 1957</u>	
1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	11
8)	<u>PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1957</u>	
1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or roomshaving been made fit	Nil
9)	<u>HOUSING ACT 1957 - OVERCROWDING</u>	
(a)	i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year(Estimated)	40
	ii) Number of families dwelling therein (Estimated)	62
	iii) Number of people dwelling therein (Estimated)	186
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil

(c) i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	15
ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	66
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

SECTION 'E'

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD PREMISES

The following shows the number of food premises etc. by type of business:-

Cafes etc.	9
General Stores	63
Bakers	5
Butchers	14
Licenced Premises	52

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Ice Cream	98
Preserved Foods	14
Number of Registered Dairies	Nil
Number of Private Slaughterhouses licensed	4
Number Operating	3

BYELAWS (UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938)

It was not found necessary to take any action.

ADULTERATION

The Council is not a Local Authority under the sale of Food and Drugs Act.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year:-

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	4209	12360	3906	15027	5684	-
Number inspected	4209	12360	3906	15027	5684	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	2	59	24	87	42	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	554	5375	10	752	785	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	13%	44%	0.76%	5.5%	14.5%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part of an organ was condemned	-	5	-	-	182	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	0.05%	-	-	3.2%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	10	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	2	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	1	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs) for						
(a) Tuberculosis	-	777	-	-	3473	-
(b) Cysticercosis	50	453	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	5950	25894	1014	6352	9069	-
Total (in lbs) condemned	6000	26347	1014	6352	12542	-

